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ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA
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AIRGRAM

A-192

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TO : Department of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

HANDLING INDICATOR

OCT 18 1972

OCT 16 4 08 PM '72

FROM : Amembassy, GUATEMALA

DATE: OCT 13 1972

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY - Monthly Report of Incidents, September 1972

REF :
REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE 2 OCT 1972
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUMMARY: The month's total of 98 press reported incidents of a probable political nature was the highest figure since October 1971, and 42% more than the 1972 monthly average. This upsurge appears principally due to three factors: a sharp increase in Guatemala City kidnappings and shootings; a high number of incidents on the South Coast which led geographic areas in incidents for the seventh time this year; and PGT propaganda efforts celebrating its 23rd anniversary. The most prominent political action in September was a clandestine and still puzzling Government roundup of a number of PGT leaders. Also of interest, were a FAR robbery of a Guatemala City arms shop, and a series of Army sweep operations on the South Coast. However, the most publicized incident in September was the sexually motivated shooting of a Guatemalan couple by police officers. Although this was purely a criminal act, it rapidly ballooned into a political issue and resulted in a widespread condemnation of the National Police despite the immediate arrests of the culprits. In two important personnel changes, the Government appointed a new Minister of Government and a new Chief of the Detective Corps. END SUMMARY

Statistics: The September press carried 98 incidents of probable political violence, the highest figure since the 110 total of October 1971, and a total 42% higher than the January-August monthly average of this year (66). Incidents in September included 36 killings and 27 kidnappings and disappearances, among whom numbered six PGT leaders, two private guards, a National Policeman, a Suchitepequez

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FORM 4-52 DS-323

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10/10/72

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DC:WTDryfuss

assistant mayor, a San Marcos labor leader, and a landowner and a businessman in Quezaltenango. Terrorists appeared to have initiated 20% of the month's incidents, most of which involved leaflet bombs and sign paintings, and the Government appeared responsible for 12% [REDACTED] B-1
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The remaining 68% were unattributable.

COMMENT: The upsurge in the month's press-reported violence appears principally due to three factors. First, Guatemala City incidents rose to a number (37) almost double the 1972 monthly average for the capital area. Secondly, the South Coast recorded its second highest total for 1972 and led the country's geographic areas in violence for the seventh month this year. Thirdly, the PGT's celebration of its 23rd anniversary resulted in the detonations of numerous propaganda bombs in eight of the country's 22 departments.

PGT Leaders Captured: Newspapers gave substantial publicity to the September 26 disappearances of PGT Secretary General Bernardo Alvarado Monzon and several other important PGT members. The principal university student association (AEU) and relatives of the missing told newspaper reporters that the Government was involved. Publicly the Government denies any knowledge of the affair.

COMMENT: As of September 30, the fate of the missing PGT leaders is not publicly known. With the passage of time and no word of the whereabouts of the leaders, the PGT will reach the conclusion that they have been liquidated and ^{may} plan retaliatory action. At month's end, party members were seeking new safehouses and more information on the kidnappings, reorganizing, and discussing future plans. Several known PGT members at San Carlos University have not been apprehended and concern for their continued well being may, therefore, serve as a deterring factor to revenge-minded Party members, but to what extent remains to be seen.

Other Government Actions: At the end of September the Army began a series of sweep operations on the South Coast where fingueros and others had long complained about the increasing criminal and political violence (see A-172). The security forces arrested several reported terrorists this month, including a Carlos Enrique Solorzano Loaiza, a FAR member who was disarmed and shot by a local banker during a kidnapping attempt. The Government made former Foreign Minister Roberto Herrera Ibarquen the new Minister of Government, appointing

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ex-Minister Jorge Arenales Catalan to head the Foreign Ministry. In addition, Leonel Bojorquez was named to replace Alberto Barrios Ramirez as head of the National Police Detective Corps.

COMMENT:

National Police Image Blackened: The most publicized incident this month was an apparently sexually motivated shooting of a young girl and her fiancée by National Policemen. The assailants originally seized the couple from their parked car in Guatemala City, transported them in their police vehicle outside the urban area, and shot both. The fiancée miraculously survived to talk and the Government immediately arrested the policemen involved and reportedly plans to seek the death penalty. Although this was a criminal action, it rapidly became a political issue as a number of editorialists and many others have expressed their revulsion and have harshly condemned the National Police for the action. Other incidents appearing in the September press further tarnished the security force image including the arrests of five security guards of the Supreme Court President for the robbery of a Quiche farm and the arrests of 14 Treasury Policemen for various small crimes.

COMMENT: Despite the immediate arrests following the above shooting incident and the apparently sincere attempts of the Arana Administration to purge the security forces of criminal elements, the crime has caused a definite setback in National Police efforts to improve its image.

Far Left Actions: Terrorists apparently initiated one-fifth of the month's incidents, mostly in the propaganda field as the PGT celebrated its 23rd anniversary. In addition, the FAR staged a September 14 robbery of a Guatemala City gun shop in which the press said more than 100 small arms were seized. that the FAR may have assaulted the Quezaltenango farm of the brother of ex-President Juan José Arevalo (1945-1951) in which a vehicle and several buildings were said to have been destroyed. Reported guerrillas also attacked a San Marcos National Police guard house.

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Miscellaneous: A previously reported bombing of the Haitian Consulate on September 6 (see A-176), was evidently a non-political assault. The Consul is also an insurance adjuster

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION

SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652

EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B (2)

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Enclosure: Monthly Frequency of Political Incidents by Region.

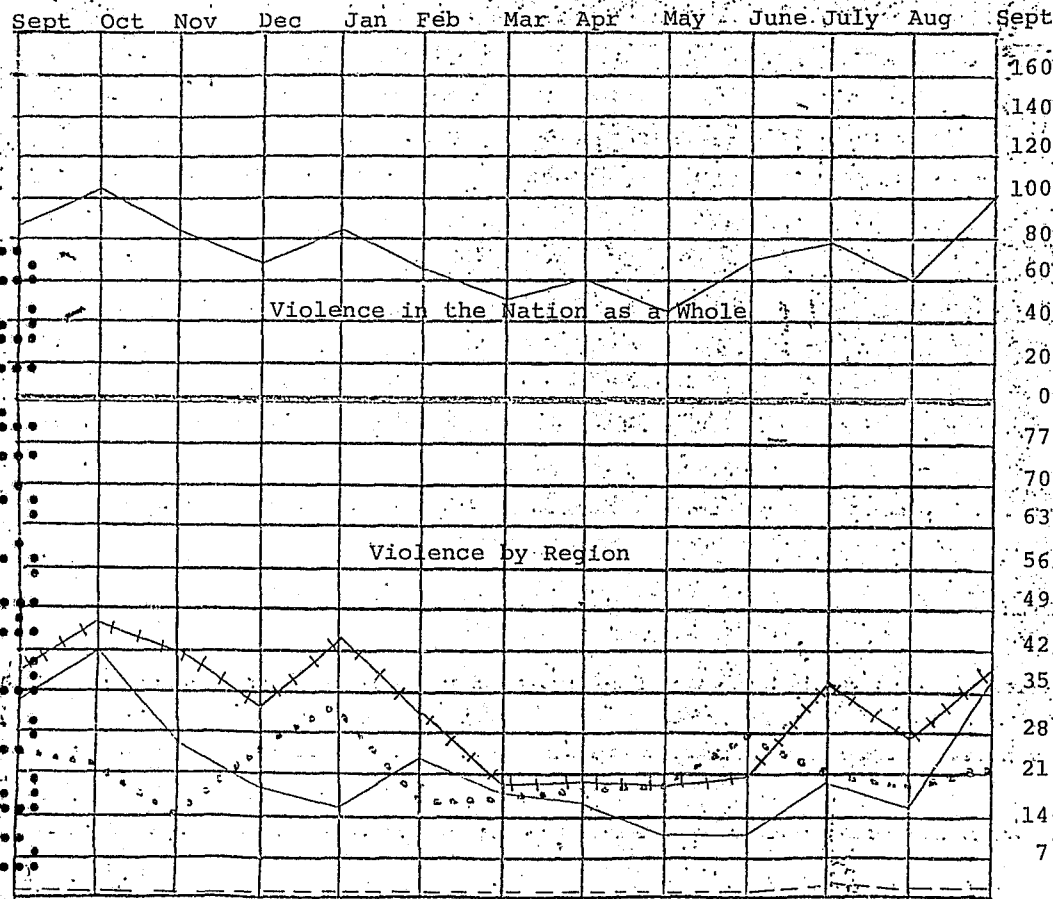
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Guatemala
Area
Risk

CONFIDENTIAL

MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS BY REGION - SEPTEMBER 1971 - SEPTEMBER 1972



Total - 98

(NOTE: The dozens of PGT propaganda bombs which exploded in eight Departments at the end of the month are counted as incidents and the September 26 roundup of PGT leaders is counted as one incident.)

For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings, and deaths all of which appear to be politically motivated.

- Capital area - Sacatepequez, Guatemala
- South Coast - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
- Eastern Region - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal, El Peten
- Highlands - Totonicapah, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola